

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim is listed below.

Claims 1-7: Canceled.

Claim 8 (New): An organic nitrogen-containing composition comprising fermentation mother liquor obtained by culturing a microorganism having L-glutamic acid-producing ability in a liquid medium the pH of which is adjusted 5.0 or less, to allow L-glutamic acid to be produced and accumulated, which is accompanied by precipitation of L-glutamic acid, and then separating L-glutamic acid from the medium.

Claim 9 (New): The organic nitrogen-containing composition according to Claim 8, wherein the microorganism belongs to the genus *Enterobacter*.

Claim 10 (New): The organic nitrogen-containing composition according to Claim 9, wherein the microorganism is *Enterobacter agglomerans*.

Claim 11 (New): The organic nitrogen-containing composition according to Claim 8, wherein the microorganism can metabolize a carbon source in a liquid medium containing the carbon source and L-glutamic acid at a saturation concentration, and has an ability to accumulate L-glutamic acid in an amount exceeding the saturation concentration.

Claim 12 (New): The organic nitrogen-containing composition according to Claim 11, wherein a pH suitable for L-glutamic acid production by the microorganism is a pH at which L-glutamic acid precipitates in the medium, and L-glutamic acid is produced and

accumulated, which is accompanied by precipitation of the L-glutamic acid, during the culture in the medium at the pH.

Claim 13 (New): The organic nitrogen-containing composition according to Claim 8, wherein the percentage by mass of organic nitrogen with respect to total nitrogen is 35% or more.

Claim 14 (New): The organic nitrogen-containing composition according to Claim 8, wherein the percentage by mass of organic nitrogen with respect to total nitrogen is 35% to 46%.

Claim 15 (New): The organic nitrogen-containing composition according to Claim 8, wherein the percentage by mass of sulfate anion with respect to total nitrogen is 500% or less.

Claim 16 (New): The organic nitrogen-containing composition according to Claim 8, wherein

the percentage by mass of organic nitrogen with respect to total nitrogen is 35% or more; and

the percentage by mass of sulfate anion with respect to total nitrogen is 500% or less.

Claim 17 (New): The organic nitrogen-containing composition according to Claim 8, wherein

the percentage by mass of organic nitrogen with respect to total nitrogen is 35% to 46%; and

the percentage by mass of sulfate anion with respect to total nitrogen is 500% or less

Claim 18 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 8.

Claim 19 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 9.

Claim 20 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 10.

Claim 21 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 11.

Claim 22 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 12.

Claim 23 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 13.

Claim 24 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 14.

Claim 25 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 15.

Claim 26 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 16.

Claim 27 (New): A fertilizer comprising the organic nitrogen-containing composition as defined in Claim 17.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Newly-added Claims 8-27 are supported by the specification at pages 4-56 and by original Claims 1-7. In particular, Claim 8 is supported by original Claim 6. Claims 9-11 are supported by original Claim 7. Claims 12-16 are supported by the specification at page 29, lines 19-23; page 30, lines 6-8; and page 46, Table 1 (mass% of organic nitrogen with respect to total nitrogen is 46%).

No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by the amendments submitted above.